Report of the enquiry commission on ONGC's well fire

*507. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 58 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether the one-man Enquiry Commission set up to find out the causes of the blow-out of oil well near Amlapuram, Andhra Pradesh, which started on January 8, 1995 and continued for more than two months, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the details of the recommendations made by the submitted its reports.

(c) whether the Commission has indicated top Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's officials for the blow-out; if so, what are the facts and details in this regard;

(d) what action Government have taken or propose to take on each of the recommendations contained in the report; and

(e) what has been the extent of loss caused by the fire and the compensation given to the affected persons and how Government propose to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The report of the Enquiry Committee is being examined by the Government.

(e) the total loss incurred by ONGC due to the blow out is estimated to be about Rs. 31.5 crores.

ONGC will pay its liabilities towards compensation for damage to property as per the provisions of the Public Liability Insurance Act and Rules, 1991. Meanwhile, they have already deposited a sum of Rs. 55.50 lakhs with the District Administration for meeting various expenditure on relief and rehabilitation works.

Spurt in ISI activities through Rajasthan Sector

*508. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article published in the Punjab Kesri of April 13, 1995 under the caption "If ISI activities were not checked, India would have to face an attack by Pakistan"; if so. what is the reaction of Government to the increasing ISI activities through the Rajasthan sector;

(b) the number of infiltrators Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and others, arrested in 1994 and so far in 1995;

(c) whether it is a fact that smuggling of arms and narcotics is also on the increase in the Rajasthan sector; and

(d) whether Government of Rajasthan has brought these problems to the notice of Central Government and if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. After completion of entire work of border fencing/flood lighting in Punjab, there is hightened increase of terrorist antivities in Rajasthan. The State Government have also drawn attention of the Central Government to the spurt in the ISI activities. To counter such activities, border fencing/flood lighting work has been completed for a distance of 333/352 Kms. respectively in Ganganagar and Bikaner Sectors. Additional border fencing work to the extent of 387 Kms. in Jaisalmer and Barmer districts is under execu-

tion. Besides, BSF has been strengthened with the supply of sophisticated weapons. All the concerned agencies have been sensitised for maintaining utmost coordination, sharing of intelligence, exchange of information for evolving a synchronised strategy to counter the activities of ISI.

(b) Details of persons apprehended during 1994 and 1995 (upto 31st March) on Indo-Pak border along Rajasthan are as under:—

	Year	
	1994	1995 (Upto 31st March
(i) Bangladeshis	2472	407
(ii) Pakistanis	36	6
(iii) other Foreigners	666	135
(iv) Indians	81	22

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Rajasthan have requested to expedite the work of fencing/floor lighting on priority basis. The details of border fencing/flood lighting on Rajasthan border withh Pakistan are as under:—

In Ganganagar and Bikaner Sectors, border fencing/flood lighting in 333 Kms./352 Kms. respectively has already been completed.

Further, a total of 387 Kms. of border fencing/flood lighting has been sanctioned in Jaisalmer and Barmer districts. Out of this:—

(i) Border fencing/flood lighting work in 121 kms. of Jaisalmer Sector has been completed.

(ii) The work of border fencing/flood lighting in 146 kms. of Barmer Sector is scheduled to be completed by 31st December, 1995.

(iii) Lastly, work of 120 kms. in Barmer Sector is targetted to be completed by 30th June, 1996.

Besides, the other measures taken by the Government to curb terrorist activities include sensitisation of the concerned agencies, gearing up of intelligence machinery, reducing the distance between BOPs, increasing the number of Patrols/Nakas, erection of OP Tower, intensification of border petrolling, supply of various equipments like night vision devices, binoculars, twin telescopes, hand held search lights etc. for effective observation during day and night and strengthening of BSF etc.

Function of Electronic Exchanges in Gujarat

*509. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new electronic exchanges and STD routes opened in Gujarat during 1993 are functioning properly;

(b) if so, what are the details of such exchange;

(c) whether the VIP telephones are duly monitored by the exchange officials; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) 86 No. of electronic exchanges and 65 No. of STD routes were opened in the calendar Year 1993. Details given in enclosed Statement-I & II respectively. (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The important numbers are tested daily and action taken accordingly.